

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-32 are pending in the application. The amendment to the claims do not present any new matter and are directed to matters of form expressly set forth in Office Action of March 24, 2004. Applicants attach hereto a version of the claims showing changes made by the current amendment. Further, to be fully responsive to the Office Action, Applicants file herewith a Notice of Appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 17 under CFR §1.75 (c) as being in improper form because it is a multiple dependent claim (paragraph 1 of the Office Action). Applicants assume that the Examiner means that claim 17 is a multiple dependent claim dependent on another multiple dependent claim, in this case, claim 5. In response to the Examiner's objection, applicants have amended claim 17 to remove its multiple dependency by deleting the phrase "according to the method of claim 1". Applicants believe, therefore, that amended claim 17 overcomes the Examiner's objection and is in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 and 18-32 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 1, 18, and 31 to correct spelling and typographical errors as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, applicants submit that rewritten claims 1, 18, and 31 overcomes the rejection and that claims 1-16 and 18-32 are thus in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter


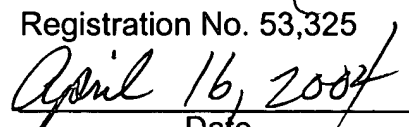
The Examiner's statement regarding allowable subject matter is acknowledged.

Docket: 71013
Appl. No. 09/640,318
Amendment dated April 16, 2004

PATENT

Applicants submit that the foregoing amendment addresses all of the alleged deficiencies in claims 1, 17, 18, and 31 cited by the Examiner. Hence, claims 1-32 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended is herewith respectfully requested.

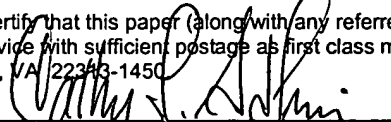
Respectfully submitted,

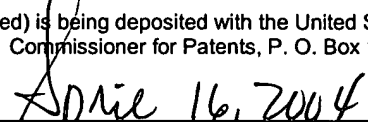

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22304-1450.


Cathy L. Adkins


Date